



## Hybrid drive technology significantly reduces energy consumption



**E**STRAL S.p.a., in Manerbio, Italy, has awarded SMS group a contract to supply a HybrEx®28. This extrusion press is the second press the company has ordered from SMS group and the first one of the new HybrEx® series for the Italian aluminum market. It extrudes aluminum billets with a maximum force of 28 MN and a top speed of 20 millimeters per second.

The HybrEx®28 is one of a new generation of extrusion presses that features an innovative drive concept. Compared to conventional extrusion presses, hybrid drive technology

significantly reduces energy consumption. Shorter dead cycle times mean productivity can be increased. As a result, the HybrEx®28 fulfills the requirements of an ecoplants solution.

The HybrEx® replaces conventional hydraulic drives for the axes of motion with high-speed electric servo drives in all areas where the speed of movement and acceleration are critical. The electric servo motors are faster and more energy-saving and allow for more precise positioning.

Its really compact design is possible thanks to the hydraulic system concept developed for the HybrEx®. The entire hydraulic drive unit can be integrated in the machine's soundproof enclosure. The enclosure design not only looks state-of-the-art, it also takes into account all aspects of operational safety,

ensuring better machine accessibility. ESTRAL S.p.a. produces complex, top-quality precision profiles for a wide range of applications. These include both standard profiles and customized special profiles for automotive applications. The HybrEx® with its rigid, three-part triple-layer counter beam and the patented precision guide for container and moving crosshead provides the perfect conditions to achieve just that.

The HybrEx®28 is part of an overall order placed with OMAV S.p.a. for the supply of an integrated extrusion line. This includes a press feed line, a HybrEx® extrusion press, a handling system including sophisticated quenching system, a profile stretcher, and a finishing saw.

The new HybrEx® extrusion press is scheduled to be delivered to ESTRAL in Manerbio still this year according to a press release. ■

## 40-year-old Aluminium cold rolling mill Modernised

**A**fter successful modernization of the 40-year-old aluminum cold rolling mill by SMS group at the Slovenska Bistrica facility, the Slovenian aluminum producer Impol Group Slovenia has awarded the final acceptance to SMS group. The previously performed acceptance tests had proven that the rolled products are now fulfilling even stricter quality criteria. With this upgrade, Impol Group Slovenia has invested in the future viability of the facility and has brought about significant improvements of the cold rolling mill's capability.

The strip width and thickness range was enlarged and the maximum



coil weight increased. By new setting and control systems, strip quality was improved, particularly regarding the achievement of closer thickness and flatness tolerances. A new strip blow-off system minimizes oil residues and provides a homogeneous strip surface. The

comprehensive upgrade and extension measures comprised technological control systems and measurement instrumentation, entry and exit side equipment of the rolling mill, coil logistics, media plants as well as accompanying modifications of the foundations.

SMS group is a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It has some 14,000 employees who generate worldwide sales of about EUR 3 billion. The sole owner of the holding company SMS GmbH is the Familie Weiss Foundation. ■